

Please amend the claims by substituting the following claims for the corresponding previously pending claims of the same number(s):

26. A method of screening for neoplastic cells in a sample, the method comprising:

contacting a nucleic acid sample from a human patient with a probe consisting essentially of a sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 9, wherein the probe is contacted with the sample under conditions in which the probe specifically hybridizes under stringent conditions with the target polynucleotide sequence to form a stable hybridization complex; and

detecting the formation of a hybridization complex, wherein an amplification of said target polynucleotide sequence indicates that said cell is a neoplastic cell.

Please insert new claims 47-50 as follows:

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~~47~~. A method of screening for neoplastic cells in a sample, the method comprising:

contacting a nucleic acid sample from a human patient with a probe that hybridizes selectively to a target polynucleotide sequence consisting essentially of the sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 10, wherein the probe is contacted with the sample under conditions in which the probe specifically hybridizes under stringent conditions with the target polynucleotide sequence to form a stable hybridization complex; and

detecting the formation of a hybridization complex, wherein an amplification of said target polynucleotide sequence indicates that said cell is a neoplastic cell.

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~~48~~. The method of claim ⁴⁸~~47~~, wherein the nucleic acid sample is from a patient with breast cancer.

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~~49~~. The method of claim ⁴⁸~~47~~, wherein the nucleic acid sample is a metaphase spread or an interphase nucleus.

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~~50~~. The method of claim ⁴⁸~~47~~, wherein the probe comprises a polynucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ. ID. No. 10.--